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NOTE ON THE PERIODS OF CLOSE BINARIES.

In reviewing two recent statistical studies of spectroscopic binaries in the April number of the *Publications,* Mr. PADDOCK finds in the investigation of orbital eccentricities by JORDAN[1] a possible verification of WICKSELL'S[2] conclusion that two orders of period exist for the various spectral classes. It is not necessary, however, to depend on spectroscopic orbits alone for a further examination of this question, for the only data necessary to test the hypothesis are the periods and spectral types of close double stars. We may combine the results for both eclipsing and spectroscopic binaries, and the material, while still homogeneous, is more than doubled. The most recent results are included in the following table:—

LOGARITHM OF PERIOD AND SPECTRAL TYPE.

Spectrum	−0.8 to −0.4	−0.4 to 0.0	0.0 to +0.4	+0.4 to +0.8	+0.8 to +1.2	+1.2 to +1.6	+1.6 to +2.0	+2.0 to +2.4	+2.4 to +2.8	+2.8 to +3.2	+3.2 to + 3.6	+ 3.6 to + 4.0	Total No. of Binaries
B	..	..	9	16	10	6	..	6	..	..	..	..	47
A	..	9	26	40	14	9	3	2	..	1	1	..	105
F-G-K	2	3	3	10	5	4	4	5	5	3	1	2	47
Total	2	12	38	66	29	19	7	13	5	4	2	2	199

It is seen at once that the double grouping of periods has disappeared (except for six stars of spectrum B). We should remember, however, that rather complicated conditions of selection have influenced the present lists of both spectroscopic and eclipsing binaries, so that any statistical conclusion must be to some extent conditional and temporary. The frequency curves and a fuller discussion of the subject will appear in the current number of the *Astrophysical Journal.*

HARLOW SHAPLEY.

HONORS FOR PROFESSOR LEUSCHNER AND PROFESSOR STEBBINS.

The National Academy of Sciences at its April meeting in Washington conferred the Watson Gold Medal upon Professor A. O. LEUSCHNER, Director of the Students' Observatory, University of California, in recognition of the great value of his contributions to the theory and practice of orbit determination, with special reference to his development of the "Short Method."

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[1] *Publ. All. Obs.*, **3**, 158.

[2] *Arkiv för Matematik, Astronomi och Fysik,* **10**, No. 6, 1914.

The National Academy at the same meeting bestowed the Henry Draper Gold Medal upon Dr. JOEL STEBBINS, Professor of Astronomy in the University of Illinois, in appreciation of his sustained investigations which led to the perfecting of the selenium photometer. Professor STEBBINS had received, in 1914, the Rumford Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, in recognition of the same services.

The Lick Observatory is pleased to recall that Mr. LEUSCHNER was a special student in the Lick Observatory during the years 1888-1890, and that Mr. STEBBINS was a Fellow in the Lick Observatory during the years 1902-04.

ASTRONOMY AT THE SUMMER SESSION, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

An unusual opportunity is this year afforded to students in other universities who wish to gain a knowledge of the theory and practice of orbit computation as developed at the Students' Observatory, Berkeley. Professor LEUSCHNER announces that he will give a course on Orbit Theory and conduct a seminar on the same subject in the Summer Session of the University, opening on June 21, 1915. The two courses are open to students "familiar with the differential and integral calculus and with the fundamental principles of general and practical astronomy."

Dr. NICHOLSON will conduct two courses in general astronomy during the Summer Session, one for students without previous knowledge of the subject, the other a more advanced course.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Miss MARGARET HARWOOD, holder of the Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association Fellowship, who will be a graduate student in the Berkeley Astronomical Department during the next academic year, will spend the summer vacation months in residence at the Lick Observatory.

Mr. W. K. GREEN has been reappointed University Fellow in the Lick Observatory for the next academic year.